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Customer No. 20350  
 TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
 Two Embarcadero Center, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
 (650) 326-2400

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Attorney Docket No. 16869P-011500

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**  
**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20231**

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 CFR 1.53(b) is the

patent application of  
 continuation patent application of  
 divisional patent application of  
 continuation-in-part patent application of

Inventor(s)/Applicant Identifier: **Kunihiko Miyazaki, Ryoichi Sakai, Kazuo Takaragi, Seiichi Susaki, Toshiyuki Moritsu, Mizuhiro Sakai, Mitsuru Iwamura, and Tsutomu Matsumoto**

JC944 U.S. PTO  
 09/693713  
 10/19/00

**For: Digital Signing Method**

This application claims priority from each of the following Application Nos./filing dates:  
Japanese Patent Application No. P11-301216, Filed October 22, 1999  
 the disclosure(s) of which is (are) incorporated by reference.

Please amend this application by adding the following before the first sentence: "This application is a [ ] continuation [ ] continuation-in-part of and claims the benefit of U.S. Application No. 60/\_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference."

Enclosed are:

33 page(s) of specification  
 8 page(s) of claims  
 1 page of Abstract  
 12 sheet(s) of [ ] formal  informal drawing(s).  
 An assignment of the invention to Hitachi, Ltd.  
 A  signed [ ] unsigned Declaration & Power of Attorney  
 A  signed [ ] unsigned Declaration.  
 A Power of Attorney by Assignee with Certificate Under 37 CFR Section 3.73(b).  
 A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27 [ ] is enclosed [ ] was filed in the prior application and small entity status is still proper and desired.  
 A certified copy of a Japanese application.  
 Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97, Form PTO-1449, and three references.  
 A petition to extend time to respond in the parent application.  
 Notification of change of [ ] power of attorney [ ] correspondence address filed in prior application.  
 Recordation Form Cover Sheet.

(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	
FOR:	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA
<b>BASIC FEE</b>		
<b>TOTAL CLAIMS</b>	33 - 20	= *13
<b>INDEP. CLAIMS</b>	8 - 3	= *5
<b>[ ] MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED</b>		

\* If the difference in Col. 1 is less than 0, enter "0" in Col. 2.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 20-1430 as follows:

Filing fee \$ 1,344.00  
 Any additional fees associated with this paper or during the pendency of this application.  
 The issue fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b)

A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
 2 extra copies of this sheet are enclosed.

SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	FEES	RATE	FEES
	\$345.00		\$710.00
x \$9.00 =		x \$18.00 =	\$234.00
x \$39.00 =		x \$80.00 =	\$400.00
+ \$130.00 =		+ \$260.00 =	
TOTAL		TOTAL	\$1,344.00

Respectfully submitted,  
 TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

George B. F. Yee, Reg. No. 37,478 for  
 Paul A. Durdik, Reg. No. 37,819  
 Attorneys for Applicants

Telephone: (650) 326-2400 Facsimile: (415) 576-0300